

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-29 were pending. Claims 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, and 27 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 8, 16, 20, and 26 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 7, 9-15, 17-19, 21-25, and 27-29 remain pending.

Applicant has amended paragraph [0036] of the specification to correct two typos in the reference numerals of the decoder and encoder described in order to make the reference numerals consistent with the labels in Figure 5. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment adds no new matter to the current application.

Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 26 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the base claims of claims 8, 16, 20, and 26 (i.e., claims 7, 15, 19, and 25, respectively) to incorporate the limitations of claims 8, 16, 20, and 26. Claims 9, 17, 21, and 27 have been amended to depend from claims 7, 15, 19, and 25, respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment has overcome the objection and allowance of claims 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, and 27 as amended is earnestly solicited.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7, 10-15, 18, 19, 22-25, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) being unpatentable over Hanami, U.S. Patent 6,122,317 (hereinafter "Hanami") in view of Zhu et al. "A New Diamond Search Algorithm for Fast Block-Matching Motion Estimation", IEEE Transaction on Image Processing, Vol. 9, No. 2, Feb. 2000). Claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Applicant respectfully traverse the rejection on the remaining claims. For the reason

discussed above, claims 7, 15, 19, and 25 are patentable over the Hanami in view of Zhu. Claims 10-14, 18, 22-23, and 28-29 depend from claims 7, 15, 19, and 25, respectively, and thus, are also patentable over Hanami in view of Zhu. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Note that Applicant has amended the claims solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the current application. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the argument set forth in the Office Action. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims as filed in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

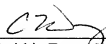
Applicant respectfully submits that the objections and rejections have been overcome by the remarks and amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objections and rejections be withdrawn.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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